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Claim 8. A tile in accordance with Claim 4, wherein the undersides of said simulated tiles comprise peripheral ribs.

Claim 9. A tile in accordance with Claim 4, wherein the undersides of said convex simulated tiles are provided with peripheral relief means.

Claim 10. A tile in accordance with Claim 4, wherein said connecting means comprises at least one channel which is adapted to receive at least one protrusion at the underside of the lower said end of another like tile.

REMARKS

In the Official Action of July 26, 2002, the Specification was criticized because it was not in a format prescribed for U.S. patent applications. Accordingly, a Substitute Specification is submitted herewith which, it is submitted, generally conforms with the prescribed format of U.S. patent applications while, at the same time, it does not introduce new matter.

Claims 1 and 2 were allowed but were objected to as being in narrative form. Accordingly, Claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled without prejudice. New Claim 3 follows, in general, the paragraph on page 6 of the Official Action which provides reasons for finding Claims 1 and 2 allowable.

Claim 4 is presented in a somewhat broader and different context to define the invention of the instant Application. As set forth in Claim 4, the invention remains directed to the tile which has four simulated tiles, two convex and two concave. As set forth, it is submitted that Claim 4 clearly avoids the cited prior art as well as other prior art which was cited in the corresponding International Patent Application of which the instant Application is a continuation. Claims 5-10 are dependent claims directed to various features of the instant

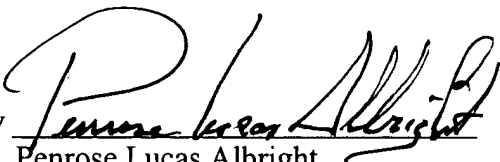
invention. As such, it is submitted that these claims are patentably distinct from each other as well as over the cited prior art.

Further consideration and reexamination of this Application, in its amended form, is requested in view of 35 U.S.C. §132 and regulations in implementation thereof. It is submitted the Application in its amended form is free from ambiguity and avoids the references of record. It is further submitted the Examiner should have no difficulty in finding that the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented in this Application and prior art and usage within the Examiner's expert knowledge are such that the subject matter as a whole would not have been obvious at the time the invention was made to persons having ordinary skill in the art to which the subject matter of this Application pertains.

In view of the foregoing, the allowance of claims as now presented is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Filed: January 27, 2003